

South West Metropolitan Region

**FOUNTAIN GROUP HOSPITAL
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Fountain Hospital, Tooting Grove,
London, S.W.17**

Group No. 31

**ANNUAL REPORT
1949**

**FOUNTAIN HOSPITAL, Tooting Grove, London, S.W.17
SOUTH SIDE HOME, Streatham Common South, London, S.W.16
ELLEN TERRY HOME, Wray Park Road, Reigate, Surrey**

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South West Metropolitan Region
FOUNTAIN GROUP HOSPITAL
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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South Side Home.

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S. G. WADE, Esq., A.H.A.

Medical Staff.

Consultant Psychiatrist and Physician Superintendent :

L. T. HILLIARD, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.M.

Consultant Psychiatrist and Deputy Superintendent :

B. H. KIRMAN, M.D., B.S., D.P.M.

Registrar : K. F. HIRSCH, M.D.(Berlin).

Junior Hospital Medical Officer :

F. S. DANZIGER, M.D.(Leipzig).

House Physicians :

MARY J. G. HERMAN, M.B., B.S.

JOYCE M. PARKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Visiting General Practitioner, Ellen Terry Home :

G. WHITTINGTON, M.B., B.S.

Visiting Dental Surgeon :

R. W. WEIR, L.D.S., R.F.P.S.

Visiting Consultant Staff.

Oto-Rhino-Laryngologist : H. V. O'SHEA, M.D., M.Ch.

Ophthalmologist : L. MUSHIN, M.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.

Orthopædic Surgeon : E. A. LINDSAY, B.A., F.R.C.S.

Anæsthetist : J. G. STEVENS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Neurologist : F. A. ELLIOTT, F.R.C.P.

Radiologist : To be appointed.

Pædiatrician : To be appointed.

Officers.

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Finance Officer .. H. E. CLARK, A.H.A.

Supplies Officer .. L. C. JINMAN, A.H.A.

Group Engineer .. J. R. FOLEY, G.M.

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S.C.M., R.N.M.D.,
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<i>Physiotherapist</i>	..	H. R. ROBINSON, M.C.S.P.
<i>Social Workers</i>	..	Miss M. A. KERRY, Soc. Sc.cert. Miss M. F. CRAIB, A.M.I.A.
<i>Head Occupational Therapist</i>		Miss L. N. SOUTHGATE, A.M.O.T., R.M.P.A.cert.
<i>Sisters-in-Charge—</i>		
<i>Ellen Terry Home</i>	..	Miss G. WILLIAMS, R.M.P.A.cert.
<i>South Side Home</i>	..	Miss L. F. TRINDER, R.M.P.A.cert.

Part-time

<i>Church of England Chaplain</i>	Rev. R. R. NEILL, M.A.
<i>Free Church Minister</i>	..	Rev. C. W. PARNELL
<i>Roman Catholic Priest</i>		Rev. Father T. CLIFTON
<i>Organiser of Occupa- tions Centres</i>	..	Miss F. M. DEAN
<i>Grounds Supervisor</i>	..	W. W. PERKINS, A.R.H.S.
<i>Chiropodist</i>	A. V. CHAMBERLAIN, L.Ch.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

In presenting an Annual Report at a Meeting open to the public, the Management Committee of this Group of Hospitals wishes to stimulate local interest and bring to the notice of the public a branch of the Hospital Service which, for too long, has remained the "Cinderella" among the various types of Hospital. To a certain extent this may be due to a reluctance on the part of the public to have their attention directed to Mental Deficiency, but to a much greater extent, perhaps, it is due to lack of publicity.

Hospitals in the Group.

Prior to the Appointed Day, 5th July, 1948, the Fountain Hospital was administered by the London County Council, through a Sub-Committee of the Mental Hospitals Committee; South Side Home, Streatham, had not been used as a Mental Deficiency Hospital since 1939, when the patients were evacuated; and Ellen Terry Home, Reigate, was administered by the Servers of the Blind League out of voluntary subscriptions.

These three hospitals were grouped together under one Management Committee and cater for all types of mental defect, and serve the whole of the Counties of London and Surrey.

THE FOUNTAIN HOSPITAL is the only Mental Deficiency Hospital in the Health Service which specialises in the care of children of all ages from a few weeks up to sixteen years of age. There are patients who are older, but it is intended that these shall be transferred to Hospitals for Adult Defectives, leaving the accommodation available for children.

ELLEN TERRY HOME, again, is the only Hospital of its kind caring for Blind, Mentally Defective children. Separate accommodation is desirable for these patients, who need more individual attention, due to their particular handicaps.

SOUTH SIDE HOME, which was untenanted in July, 1948, and in a very bad state of repair, has been completely reinstated and equipped, and accommodates adult female defectives, who were transferred from the Fountain hospital. It is run on hostel lines, so that the patients will gradually be taught to become useful citizens, ready for the time when they are considered fit for discharge from the Mental Deficiency Acts and take their place in the world.

Management Committee.

The South West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board is responsible for forming Management Committees of Hospital Groups upon recommendations made by various public and professional bodies. From those Members originally appointed by the Regional Board the following have resigned, either from pressure of other duties or for health reasons :—

Mrs. A. A. Anderson

Miss M. V. Cooper

Miss D. I. F. Forstner

Miss O. F. Griffith

W. Timins, Esq.

G. P. Wright, Esq. (formerly Chairman).

Other Members have been appointed to fill the vacancies caused, and the list given at the commencement of the Report shows the membership at the time of publication.

Sub-Committees to deal with Finance, General Purposes and Establishment have been formed and meet regularly to submit recommendations to the Management Committee. House Committees have been formed for Ellen Terry Home and South Side Home, whose terms of reference include supervision of the general welfare of patients and staff.

A Joint Consultative Committee of members of the Staff and Management has been set up and meets regularly with good results.

Care and Treatment of Patients.

Accommodation.

The Fountain Hospital was built in 1893 as a fever hospital, with 384 beds in 16 wards. In 1912 it became a hospital for mentally deficient children and the number of beds was gradually increased until the sixteen wards contained 670, 826 and finally 890 beds during the last war, when overcrowding was at its peak. The destruction of three wards by a flying bomb on 6th July, 1944, reduced the accommodation to 680 beds in 13 wards, but the relative overcrowding was not reduced. Following the opening of South Side Home and the transfer there of the adult females, some of the wards have been reorganised and the total bed accommodation has now been reduced to 650. There are 80 beds at South Side Home and 50 at Ellen Terry Home, making a total of 780 beds in the Group.

Admissions.

There were 89 new admissions during the year (excluding four re-admissions) of which 60 were males and 29 females. Five cases were admitted under Section 15 of the M.D. Act as to a place of safety, seven under Section 7, one Section 8, one Section 9 and seventeen under Section 6. The remaining 58 patients were placed by their parents under Section 3 and no magistrate's order was required for these cases. This voluntary method of admission should be encouraged in suitable cases, as it tends to greater co-operation between the parents and the hospital and avoids any feeling that the child has been removed from its home by legal process.

Age on admission.

Apart from 9 adult females, all the children admitted, except 3, were under 8 years, 41 were under 5 years and 15 under 2 years of age.

Transfers to other hospitals.

Ten males and 21 females were transferred to other institutions, nearly all on an exchange basis within the hospital region concerned. This enabled younger patients to be substituted for older patients at this hospital but had no material effect on our waiting list.

Discharges.

Two boys admitted under Section 15 returned home. Five boys and 2 girls were discharged from the M.D. Acts during the year in order to go to special schools, although previously certified as ineducable, and 3 boys and 2 girls, who had been on licence for some years, were discharged to the care of their parents.

In addition, 22 adult females were discharged from the M.D. Acts in 1949, having made an adequate adjustment to life in the community while on licence. This is a remarkably high discharge rate, considering that there are less than 100 adult patients in the Hospital able to do work of any sort.

Deaths.

There were 29 deaths during the year, 19 males and 10 females. All except two were under 10 years old at death. Twenty were under 5 years old, of which 8 were under 2 years of age.

The ultimate cause of death in 21 cases was bronchopneumonia, enteritis was the cause in 4 cases, measles in 3 and volvulus in 1. Associated abnormalities contributing to the death were noted as follows: Microcephaly 7, mongolism 3, cerebral sclerosis 2, and single cases of T.B. meningitis, spastic diplegia, acholuric jaundice, internal hydrocephalus and lipoid dystrophy.

Post mortems.

Permission for autopsy was refused in 2 cases, but all the remaining cases were examined post mortem, 19 at the Fountain Hospital and 8 by the Coroner's pathologist. An inquest was held in one case only, where the parents were dissatisfied with the child's deterioration in hospital. A verdict of death from natural causes was returned in this case, a rare but serious metabolic disorder was confirmed post mortem, which accounted for the child's condition.

Treatment.

The Dental Surgeon attends for two sessions every Thursday and during 1949 examined all the patients, extracted 203 teeth and filled 55 teeth. Fifty-eight general and 79 local anæsthetics were given for dental patients.

The Orthopædic Surgeon visited the Hospital on 15 occasions, examined 92 patients and performed 8 operations.

The Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon visited on 7 occasions and saw 28 patients.

The Ophthalmologist visited 14 times and examined 81 patients.

The Neurologist paid 6 visits and examined 24 patients.

Laboratory.

A routine service of tests on throat swabs, blood, urine, fæces, pus, etc., involving 1,895 specimens in the year, is provided by the laboratory technician at the Fountain Hospital. Wassermann tests and special examinations are done at the Regional Laboratory at West Park Hospital.

“ School ” Department.

The Occupations Centre at the Fountain Hospital is staffed by a head occupational therapist and seven assistants. Two members of the staff are at present taking a course organised by the National Association for Mental Health, and other students of that course have come to the Fountain Hospital to gain practical experience as part of their training. There are about 200 children attending the school, some grouped into five classes in separate rooms, the remainder using the large hall.

A special class has recently been started at South Side Home and these children go over daily in the hospital coach. About 16 children attend the occupations centre at the Fountain Hospital daily from their homes in Wandsworth, as there are insufficient places at present in local occupations centres. These receive midday dinners in the school and all the children have school milk.

Leave of absence.

Facilities for patients to have contact with their relatives have been greatly increased recently. On visiting day visitors are no longer confined to the wards or visiting hall but may wander in the grounds with their children, or take them outside for a walk, bus ride or

tea without making prior application. The coach is available during visiting hours on alternate Sundays for parents to take their children for a ride to Epsom Downs. Short leave was granted on 268 occasions during 1949 and leave for periods exceeding 14 days was granted in 43 cases. Parents have appreciated the increased freedom given to them and their children, and have co-operated sensibly for their children's welfare. Only on very rare occasions have misguided parents tried to abuse the privileges afforded them.

Leave on trial.

As many adult females as possible were given opportunities of working in the community, and it is encouraging to find that, with very few exceptions, they have shown they were worthy of the confidence placed in them, although by generally accepted standards their capacity to look after themselves was very limited. A small proportion of these adult patients live with their parents, some are resident domestics in private houses, but the majority are resident ward maids and domestics in other hospitals earning full wages. Of the 60 who have been away from the Fountain Hospital for more than 2 years, 31, just over half, have been discharged from the M.D. Act.

Social Work.

The increased freedom and rehabilitation of these patients can only be achieved by very careful selection of suitable environments for each individual. Visits and follow-up calls must be made as often as required and several changes of employment may be necessary before the patient becomes adjusted to life in the community. The patients on licence were certified at an average age of 20 years and spent on an average 20 years inside institutions so that the task of finding and retaining jobs is not an easy one.

In addition to the licensing work, the homes of relatives have to be visited before short leave is granted and also when the case comes up for reconsideration by the visiting justices.

The whole of this work was carried out single-handed in 1949, but a second social worker has now been appointed to share the work.

Waiting list.

Since the appointed day the list of patients awaiting admission to the Fountain Hospital has been dealt with at the Hospital instead of at County Hall and 392 names have been entered on it in under two years. Seventy-six of these names have been removed because the patients were admitted to other hospitals, 17 because they had died while waiting ; 156 were admitted to the Fountain Hospital, and 143 are still waiting. It is a difficult task to balance the needs of these over-wrought parents in their unsuitable homes, with the overworked staff in our overcrowded wards.

Medical records.

The statutory, statistical, medical, research and other record work relating to patients has greatly increased recently, and a Medical Records Officer has been appointed to organise and co-ordinate this department.

A detailed classification index of all patients and diseases has been built up and this is of great value to students and research workers who wish to study particular abnormalities.

Psychologist.

Very considerable assistance has been given to the medical staff by the psychologist, who has not only tested the general intelligence of patients to assess their capacity to learn at school or adjust to jobs, but has worked at the difficult task of estimating the capacities of those severely handicapped by physical disabilities such as blindness, deafness and crippling. A number of performance and other tests are used to suit children of all ages and types. To deal with the increasing work of this department an additional psychologist has been appointed for four sessions a week.

Physiotherapist.

Many of the children and adults with orthopædic or walking defects have benefited from the efficient and painstaking work of the Physiotherapy Department. A number of staff have also received treatment for sprains and rheumatism.

Chiropodist.

The part-time chiropodist has fully justified his appointment and has been able to improve the condition of the feet of a number of patients and staff. Patients with paralysis of the legs need special care, and nurses who spend many hours a day on their feet have been able to obtain increased comfort without having to waste time trying to make appointments outside the hospital.

Hairdresser.

The hairdresser has been fully occupied with cutting the patients' hair and this has greatly relieved the nursing staff of one of their many duties. An adult patient is now assisting her with shampooing and setting the hair of patients from South Side Home.

Medical Research.

Research has been continued during 1949 on the following main subjects :—

The effect of glutamic acid on intelligence.

Dr. B. H. Kirman of the Fountain Hospital.

A study of phenylketonuria.

Dr. V. A. Cowie while House Physician at the Fountain Hospital.

The lesser known blood groups in mental deficiency.

Dr. R. R. Race of the Lister Institute.

The production of rhesus sensitivity.

Dr. Marshall Chalmers of St. George's Hospital.

Immunisation against tuberculosis with the vole bacillus.

Dr. A. G. Wells, Sir William Dunn School of Pathology, University of Oxford.

The neuropathology of mental deficiency.

Dr. M. C. H. Dodgson, while trainee pathologist at the Fountain Hospital.

Genetic factors in mongolian imbecility.

Professor Lionel Penrose of the Galton Laboratory, University College.

Mental tests in imbecility and idiocy.

Miss M. Ross, B.A., Psychologist, Fountain Hospital.

Social rehabilitation of adult defectives.

Dr. L. T. Hilliard of the Fountain Hospital.

The eye condition in mongolian imbecility.

Dr. R. Lowe, from the Institute of Ophthalmology, University of London, under the terms of a Gordon Craig Travelling Scholarship.

Enamel and lens abnormalities in mental deficiency.

Dr. R. Spitzer, while honorary clinical assistant at the Fountain Hospital.

Cerebral Palsy.

Dr. L. Gellner, while honorary clinical assistant at the Fountain Hospital.

With the appointment of Dr. L. Crome, M.C., as trainee neuropathologist, it is hoped to develop research into this subject at the Fountain Hospital.

Publications.

Dr. L. T. HILLIARD—

“ Educational types of Mentally Defective Children.”
Journal of Mental Science, October, 1949.

Dr. B. H. KIRMAN—

“ Atypical tuberosc sclerosis.”
American Journal of Mental Deficiency, April, 1949.

“ Porencephaly and Cerebral Abscess Simulating Internal Hydrocephalus.”
Journal of Mental Science, July, 1949.

“ Case of ‘ Nævoid Amentia ’ with Bilateral Cerebral Lesions.”
Journal of Mental Science, April, 1950.

“ An unfinished child.”
American Journal of Mental Deficiency, April, 1950.

Teaching.

More than 60 lectures and demonstrations on Mental Deficiency were given by Dr. Hilliard and Dr. Kirman during 1949. Lecture-demonstrations were given to medical students from Guy's, St. George's, St. Mary's, St. Thomas's, Westminster and West London Hospitals, and to postgraduates at the Institute of Psychiatry and the Maudsley, St. James' and St. Stephen's Hospitals.

Lectures and demonstrations were also given (for the National Association for Mental Health) to Medical Officers of Health, Duly Authorised Officers, and Occupation Centre Students; for Psychologists from the Maudsley Hospital; for Teachers from Bedford College; and for Psychiatric Social Workers at the London School of Economics.

Clinical Meetings were arranged for the London County Medical Society and the Mental Deficiency Society of the North West Metropolitan Region.

Nursing.

We report a year of progress in the nursing division. In December, 1948, we had a total of 93 full-time staff and 56 part-time. December, 1949, showed an increase to 102 full-time and 72 part-time nursing staff, the student nurses having increased from 18 to 30. This is encouraging, but is only partial alleviation for those established members who have worked hard throughout the past few years, and are still doing so. We have two trained staff away for General Hospital Training.

Staff accommodation.

Owing to an increase in numbers the problem of accommodation arose, and once again the Grove Hospital obliged by allowing us further rooms. We should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Matron and her staff for their help.

Uniforms.

Fulfilling the programme of an improved uniform for all members of the staff, the domestic staff have this year acquired a smart overall.

Ward linen.

Throughout the war years a most rigid economy was practised which left the wards extremely short of essential linen and clothing supplies. A certain amount of extra

stock has been issued and it is hoped to make up the deficiency in the coming year.

South Side Home.

It is fitting that a small hospital which did much pioneer work during the early days of training nurses for mental deficiency nursing should once again be used for this purpose.

Ellen Terry Home.

The student nurses have, at intervals throughout the year, gone to Ellen Terry Home for experience in nursing blind defective children.

Wandsworth Youth Week.

Although we were not lucky in securing a stall at this exhibition, we were fortunate in our friends of the Wandsworth Group Hospitals, who so kindly distributed our brochures. Representatives of the nursing staff attended, in uniform, the formal opening, at which Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret was present.

Student Nurse Training.

The Preliminary Training School commenced on January 31st, 1949, and every eight weeks a new batch of students enters for training. Steady progress has been made, and despite our many former drawbacks we are each day improving our training scheme. Our number of entries for examinations are small, but the results compare favourably with other hospitals.

Ward Sister Discussions.

As needed, the Ward Sisters and administrative staff have met to discuss matters concerning nursing policy within the hospital. These meetings have proved a useful medium, not only for discussing current problems, but as a means to greater co-operation between all the various members of the group.

Finance.

The financial administration of the Group is conducted from the Fountain Hospital, but separate accounts for each of the three hospitals are maintained.

To the Finance and General Purposes Committee falls the task of holding the balance between departmental expenditure and the grant approved by the Minister. In accordance with Government instructions the maintenance estimates were submitted to the Regional Hospital Board on three occasions, during the year under review, before being finally approved by the Ministry of Health.

The Amenity Fund is flourishing and both patients and staff have benefited from the additional amenities provided therefrom.

Supplies.

All supplies have been organised on a Group basis to achieve the economies resulting from large-scale purchase. The smaller units indent on the Central Stores at the Fountain Hospital for all requirements except highly perishable foodstuffs, which are obtained direct from contractors under arrangements made centrally.

The Central Stores which was designed to serve one hospital of 300 beds is inadequate in size and inconvenient in lay-out to perform its new function of providing for 800 beds, but owing to the general demand for space to accommodate the increasing activities of other departments no extension has yet been possible.

Engineering.

For many years very little had been done at the Fountain Hospital, with the result that an accumulation of deferred maintenance of the buildings and plant had to be dealt with. It speaks well for the efficiency and energy of the Group Engineer and his staff that the following list of maintenance work and improvements accomplished can be given.

Works Completed.

FOUNTAIN HOSPITAL.

Internal decoration of 3 wards, over 100 staff rooms, Nurse Training School, all the main corridors, 20 offices and treatment rooms, laundry, staff and artisans mess-rooms, Occupations Centre, Committee block, laboratory, Gate Lodge, mortuary, Physician Superintendent's

house, Matron's house, Medical Officer's quarters, and non-resident staff cloakroom. During redecorations numerous improvements to plumbing, heating and lighting have been made, repairs effected to ceilings and walls, and minor adaptations made. External decoration of 3 wards, Gate Lodge, Stores, Matron's house, Medical Officer's quarters, Committee block, laboratory and Physician Superintendent's house.

Washbasins have been installed in two wards and several treatment rooms and in all resident staff rooms, washing facilities have been provided for the needleroom staff, and lavatory accommodation improved for both male and female staff.

New roofs have been provided for the laundry, boiler house, and the Physician Superintendent's house, and part of the roof of the Occupations Centre has been renewed.

In the laundry, the floor of the patients' wash-house has been relaid, 2 new washing machines, 2 steam presses, a new solution tank and a new compressor installed, and pressure gauges and temperature recorders fitted to the washing machines and 6-roll calender. The 2 calorifiers have been overhauled and stop valves and relay control valves replaced. An extension has been provided for foul linen sorting. A new pharmacy has been built and an additional storeroom provided and fitted with racking.

In the boiler house the brickwork of front walls to the Boiler has been rebuilt, condense pumps overhauled, new valve chests to feed pumps and a new boiler feed tank fitted, the insulation of the boilers renewed and a new 1½ in. hot water meter installed.

Steam radiation has been installed in the clinic, Medical Officers' quarters, and the Matron's, Deputy Matron's, and Administrative Offices, and obsolete types of steam trap replaced throughout the hospital.

The main kitchen has had all walls and ceilings stripped and replastered and redecorated throughout and new gas range, grill, potato paring machine, and two nests of six and two steamers respectively installed to replace worn out equipment. The refrigerator has been completely overhauled, fitted with new connecting rod and bearings, and the chamber redecorated.

A new power-driven drilling machine has been

installed in the Fitter's Shop, replacing an obsolete hand machine. A Bell's Canteen Boiler and a double compartment sink have been fitted in the messroom servery, gas-heated hot closets installed in the kitchens of seven wards, and a hot water service provided in the Engineer's Office and Artisans' Messroom. The greenhouse heating system has been renewed, the house reglazed and decorated inside and out.

War damage repairs have been effected in the mortuary, lantern lights replaced in the Resident Staff Blocks, a new staircase formed to the basement of the main stores, and a large classroom partitioned in the Occupations Centre to permit smaller classes.

Garages for the ambulance and coach have been built, awning frames erected in the courts of two wards, bays provided for household refuse, pig swill, builder's rubbish and scrap iron, and a new wood shed built. Retaining walls have been provided for coal and ash bins outside all wards, and the drainage improved in the main drive, obviating the flooding of the stores basement.

A concrete playground has been prepared on the site of two bombed wards and a sandpit formed in front of the area. Delivery is awaited of the playground equipment which will provide exercise and entertainment for the children. A fountain has been erected adjacent to the playground.

A Patients' Dining Room and a Staff Recreation Room have been formed from the derelict portion of H Block. A covered way has been provided between Wards 14 and 16. The solid wooden entrance gates of the hospital have been replaced by open ironwork gates.

In the Staff Sick Quarters light fittings, with individual switches, have been provided for each bed. The internal telephone system has been extended by 20 lines.

ELLEN TERRY HOME.

Terry House has been completely rewired for electricity, fire alarms have been installed and the house completely redecorated internally. The verandah has been enclosed to provide extra bed space and in the Sanitary Annexe a sluice has been provided. A new gas range has been fitted in the kitchen and a refrigerator installed.

Daffodil House has been redecorated both internally and externally.

The old coach house and laundry have been converted into an Occupations Centre, partly rewired for electricity, provided with heating installation and completely redecorated.

The Sister's Cottage has also been provided with heating installation and a new floor laid in the kitchen.

In addition, the domestic hot water and heating systems have been overhauled and many sanitary fittings replaced. The internal telephone system has been renewed.

SOUTH SIDE HOME.

Completely reinstated and redecorated inside and out, rewired for electricity and fire alarms, and new plumbing installed. Kitchen equipment overhauled and Bell's Boiler and Refrigerator installed. Wireless points installed and many minor adaptations carried out.

Works in Progress.

Conversion of electricity supply from D.C. current from the Grove Hospital to A.C. current from the London Electricity Board. Some sections of the hospital have already changed over.

A building similar in construction to the new pharmacy is being erected on part of the site of the bombed Ward 13, for X-ray accommodation.

Provision of washbasins in wards and alteration of bathrooms and ward sisters' offices in wards.

Reconstruction of Laundry Sorting Room.

Internal and external redecoration generally.

Installation of new calorifier for domestic hot water.

Grounds and Gardens.

During the year much has been done to improve the state of the grounds at the Fountain Hospital. Flowers and flowering trees have been planted on either side of the covered way and on the sides of the main drive, and

flower beds have been reshaped and seasonally planted. The grass area at the rear of the resident staff quarters has been levelled and resown, and a nursery established adjacent to the greenhouse. It is hoped eventually to provide concrete kerbing for the edges of grass areas and flower beds.

At Ellen Terry Home there is scope for more flower production and part of the grounds is used to provide cut bloom for the other hospitals in the Group. It should be possible to maintain a continuous supply during the coming season.

Owing to the building work in progress at South Side Home it was not possible to do more than keep the grounds tidy, but lawns and flower beds are being prepared for the benefit of patients and staff.

Entertainments and Outings.

As in the past, 186 patients in parties of approximately 30 enjoyed a week's holiday at Bognor Regis and in addition half-day and day coach trips were arranged. It will be possible to increase these outings in the coming year, now that the hospital has its own coach.

Entertainments for the patients were arranged at Christmas time and at other times during the year, and a cinema performance given every Saturday.

Fountain Bulletin.

In October of last year the first issue of a monthly magazine was published, and regular issues have followed since. The bulletin contains items of news of activities in the Group and articles of interest to staff and the relatives of patients. Copies are sent to the local press to publicise the work of the hospitals.

* * *

In conclusion I should like to put on record my appreciation of the loyal support and welcome advice given to me by my colleagues on the Management Committee. This must surely rank as one of the busiest

years in the history of the Fountain Hospital, and I take this opportunity of expressing the thanks of the Committee for the co-operation and devotion to duty of all grades of staff of the hospitals in the Group.

EILEEN R. HOARE,

Chairman,

Fountain Group Hospital Management Committee.

REPORT OF BOARD OF CONTROL

THE FOUNTAIN HOSPITAL

To-day we visited the Fountain Hospital and its two ancillary premises the South Side Home at Streatham Common and Ellen Terry Home for Blind Defective children at Reigate. They are under the same Management Committee and staffed by the medical officers from the Fountain, the parent Institution.

The recent opening of the South Side Home has enabled Dr. Hilliard the Medical Superintendent to send his highest graded adults from the Fountain to Streatham, where they are extremely happy and do not want to return to the Fountain (except to help in the domestic work).

To-day the number on the books is 620, 269 male and 351 female, of which 109 are over 16 and 511 under 16. These numbers result in severe overcrowding, especially in the wards containing the lowest grade children ; in ward 2 where the beds were crushed together, and the day room end of the ward was woefully inadequate in elbow room for the staff, while attending to their charges.

All the patients especially the children looked healthy, had clean teeth, were well nourished and adequately clothed—they were warm and comfortable in spite of the very cold weather. Apart from the overcrowding, the wards although old-fashioned and temporarily built, were fairly well equipped and those recently decorated were bright and cheerful owing to the light colours chosen ; we understand that more hand basins with hot and cold water are to be installed in the wards ; these are much wanted and it would be a good thing if elbow taps were fitted so that nurses could use them without using their hands.

The number of those on licence is 46, which is good considering the very low grade of the patients. Except for an outbreak of chicken pox now in progress, the health of the patients has been good, the 8 casualties since last visit call for no comment, and the causes of death are only to be noted, because of the absence of a death from Tuberculosis : we were informed that the children are all inoculated with the Vole Tuberculin.

There were two inquests, the verdict of one was “accidental death”, brought in about an idiot who swallowed a part of a tin toy.

A long list of alterations, improvements and additions to buildings have been completed since last visit, most noticeable of which is an addition to the foul laundry, new steamers in the kitchen, and especially the construction of a pets corner, containing goats, guinea pigs and rabbits ; this pets corner is an intriguing proposition. Dr. Hilliard's idea being that if the patients can see these pets, the stock of visual memories will be enlarged, to the benefit of their intelligence.

There were 191 (100 male and 91 female) on the school register. The average number attending daily is 185 and their ages range from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 15 years. Sixteen children are non-resident. Midday dinner is provided for them and served in the school, each child paying 6d. per day. Milk is given to all at 10.30 a.m.

The teachers arrive at the school at 9 a.m. and leave at 5 p.m.

Lessons are given between the hours of 9.30 a.m. and 11.45 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. and 3.45 p.m. Non-resident children are collected by their parents between 3.45 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Miss Southgate, the Head Mistress, has 8 assistants (6 female and 2 male) 2 of whom are away sick at present. There are 2 students here who are taking the course organised by the N.A.M.H. On Monday and Thursday mornings, Mr. Amor visits and gives special tuition to a group of 9 deaf and dumb children.

The premises comprise 1 large assembly hall, 5 class rooms and a kitchen, which are light, dry and well heated. Boys and girls use the same sanitary annexe, which also acts as a cloak room, and there is only 1 hand basin. More hand basins should be provided and also a separate annexe for the boys.

There was a businesslike atmosphere throughout the school, the discipline is good and the children obviously enjoy attending. Sessions are of reasonable duration and much individual attention is given; in one class of 18, some patients (10) are being taught 3R work. When possible the classroom at South Side Home will be used for this class, and the children conveyed there by 'bus daily.

The curriculum is varied and the work taught is on good lines. The older children usually have about three different kinds of hand work on hand.

A concert is to be given this week in which the majority of the patients are taking part. A supply of plimsolls would be much appreciated for use in the school. Progress records are kept and a new type of book for this purpose is to be supplied shortly.

The non-resident children attend the hospital clinic and receive treatment when necessary.

There is a very well equipped teaching unit, under the direction of Mr. Jameson the tutor, Miss Taylor the deputy Matron also assists with some of the lectures.

All Student Nurses spend 8 weeks in the Preliminary Training School, the hours are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. with Saturdays and Sundays free.

Nurses visit the wards for two periods of 1½ hours per week and receive practical instruction from the ward sisters. With the liaison which exists between the nursing officers it has been found possible to introduce a block system of training, irrespective of the shortage of staff.

We found all the wards well heated, this being the result of a recent overhaul of the entire heating apparatus.

The Medical staff of the Fountain, also care for the South Side Home, and the Ellen Terry Home for blind defectives, consists of:

Dr. Hilliard the Medical Superintendent.

Dr. Kirman the Deputy Medical Superintendent who both hold consultant rank.

Dr. Hirsch a registrar, and Dr. Danziger, a Junior Hospital Medical Officer.

Two women doctors, Dr. Cowie and Dr. Herman, who hold the position of House Physicians.

Also attached to the staff is a lay psychologist.

Dr. Hilliard assisted by his staff holds demonstrations of patients

to students of most of the London teaching hospitals, lectures and demonstrates to the post-graduate students for the Diploma of Psychological Medicine, also to the students reading for the Membership of the College of Physicians. We have to thank him for his help to-day, and Dr. Kirman who came with us to the Ellen Terry Home for blind defectives at Reigate.

ELLEN TERRY HOME

There were 39 either blind or partially blind mentally defective children accommodated here to-day. Two adult female patients, on licence from the Fountain act as maids and each is paid 30s. per week wages.

There is a trained Sister in charge and a staff of :—

8 Day nurses and 1 night nurse.

2 teachers.

1 seamstress and

1 cook.

One teacher was away sick so the children were unable to follow their usual school routine to-day. The individual clothing supplied is very good and the patients appeared well cared for in every way. Bedding and linen are excellent and attractive cot coverlets are supplied.

Many well used toys were in evidence within the house and on the lawns.

We had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Whittington who was visiting a child in bed suffering from a heart condition, normally he visits weekly. Dr. Cowie also visits at least once a week.

Much redecoration has been done during the past year and a new refrigerator has been installed. We found all the wards well heated and this was the result, we were informed, of a recent overhaul of the entire central heating apparatus.

SOUTH SIDE HOME

This is a very pleasant enlarged house, which has recently been decorated and refurnished from top to the bottom. It was declared open on the 21st November, 1949, and now has 59 patients on the books out of a possible 80 ; to-day 5 are on licence.

The cases that are sent here are specially selected from the Fountain, and they enjoy the change and fresh environment very much. Some go back in a motor coach daily to the Fountain to help in domestic work, but otherwise are given much freedom, and are allowed to go out alone and to the cinema. All those we spoke to, were very happy and apparently contented.

The home consists of downstairs dining and sitting rooms, large airy, newly equipped with the chairs and carpets and wireless and some books. The first floor rooms are for patients, where they sleep on low divan pattern beds, which appear very comfortable.

The girls get their breakfast and tea and supper at South Side and 8 get their main midday meal there as well—the others get their meal at the Fountain.

The top floor bedrooms are reserved for the resident staff.

At South Side an endeavour is made to teach the girls how to behave in nice surroundings so that when they go out to service on licence, they will know how to behave and how to help.

The staff here is a sister in charge, a deputy sister, one night nurse, two cooks, one full time and one part time.

Dr. Cowie comes over daily to see the patients and should there be any one needing bed treatment she would go to the Fountain by the private coach which runs daily between the Fountain and South Side. It is noted that the coach is kept at the Fountain, where a coach house has recently been built for it.

During our visit we noticed the excellent fire screens built at the top of the staircases, but thought that the means of exit, from the large rooms on the two floors at the two ends of the building were inadequate, and that a permanent iron staircase as a fire escape from the 1st and 2nd floors would be much safer.

(Sgd.)

G. A. LILLEY } *Commissioners of the Board*
J. F. M. CAMPBELL } *of Control.*

(Mrs.) M. G. MILNE REDHEAD, *Inspector of the*
Board of Control.

30th January, 1950.

